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Roxana Chapin Gerdine to Emily McKinstry Chapin (1890 March 9)

Roxana Chapin Gerdine

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Tom's death

Home March 9/90

I am in such grief & trouble that I hardly know what to write. Tom died on Wed. morn March 5th at 9 A.M. He had not seemed to be feeling any different up to a few days before his death. He had walked about the yard even to the night previous, attending to the little duties as usual. But two weeks ago to day he came home from church & said he felt so weak while in church he did not know as he could get home alone. However he did not complain particularly until bed time. He said he was going to die before morning & would I please stop the clock so he would not know how time passed. I did not encourage him in his nervousness as I supposed it was. But gave him

that in his fit of im-
pulsiveness. Tom loved
you so much, and it
was one of his dreams
to go & welcome you back
to his family. I am so
sorry. I am so sorry.
Dad.

Valerian and lay down by him. He did not let my hand leave all night. neither did he sleep. He wished me to promise him that I would meet him in heaven, & called Mary asking the same thing of her. He was better in the morning & went about as usual, until the Evening following. He commenced having his attacks, and on Tues. night he had the most severe ones I ever knew him to have & constantly all night. Dr. Bykes was with him. He says the severe strain caused effusion of blood on the brain, he was not conscious after the first attack about ten o'clock.

Of course every one says "It is well with his soul." &c. and it is the opinion of some probably that as he could not work I would not feel his loss very much. but no body knows how I miss him. for thirty years I have watched him day & night almost constantly. & he was so patient & uncomplaining. what ever Anna said, was all right with

him. The last passage of scripture that
he ever read was so appropriate. He
always brought his bible & Sabbath Reading
the latter has paragraphs for each day. His
on Tues. night was, Psalm 17. Chap 13. Verse
"As for me, I will behold thy face in
righteousness; I shall be satisfied when
I awake, with thy likeness." poor boy
he little thought how soon that would
be. The day or so previous he had read
a sermon by Dr. Salmage. subject "What are
seeming mysteries in the Divine economy
God will in due time explain & man
will acknowledge his wisdom."

Salmage says the afflicted for years
will thank God in that day that they
were afflicted. He seemed to enjoy reading
it very much. The Methodist Minister
Mr. Cameron. conducted the funeral
services & said that he knew many
things about Tom that people generally
did not. That he had called at his
study on several occasions to talk

with him. and he had the most
perfect faith he had ever known.
and quoted so many passages
of scripture so appropriately. He
was so impressed with the con-
-versation that after church, he
wrote it out & sent it to his
son who was away at college.
Bro. K says he talked with her
and she felt the same way about
it. when he left she thanked him
for coming. his talk had done
her so much good.

After that terrible night. his
countenance in death was as
calm & composed like a child
just fallen asleep. you have a
picture of him taken when with
you. that looks just as he did
to the last. Oh! how I want to
see my boy again. Lyman wrote
me a beautiful letter yesterday.
he says he intends to spend his
life in the service of the Master